

## **RADIO SHOW FEATURES LACDMH AND PUBLIC HEALTH PARTNERSHIP IN NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM**



On July 27, 2013, the LACDMH PIO will wrap another season of the LACDMH sponsored radio show on KABC, 790-AM, broadcast on Saturday nights at 8:00 PM. The talk show is designed to inform and inspire conversation about mental health issues and decrease the stigma associated with having symptoms of or a diagnosis of mental illness.

So, tune into the last “Free Your Mind Projects” radio show this Saturday night and learn about the successful Nurse Family Partnership program, a collaboration between LACDMH and LA County Public Health that helps young, impoverished, first-time mothers. The show features Dr. William Arroyo, M.D., LACDMH Medical Director, Children’s System of Care, and Jeanne Smart, R. N., Public Health Administrator.

The Nurse Family Partnership program helps first-time moms from early in their pregnancy until the child is two years old. The program has 25-30 years of proven results in many areas, such as prevention of child abuse and neglect, avoiding crisis associated with mental health and criminal justice, improvement in school readiness, and better pregnancy outcomes. Check out the website at [www.nursefamilypartnership.org](http://www.nursefamilypartnership.org) to read about all the benefits.

The program is funded by the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) with Prevention and Early Intervention dollars. Forty-eight states and many countries around the globe have already adopted the model because of its high success rate. Nurses have traditionally been the contact that visits the women and families in the home, but in Los Angeles County a mental health worker has been incorporated into the treatment, making it even more beneficial.

Dr. Arroyo will go to Washington, D.C., to speak with congressional representatives to discuss the benefits of the thousands of women served per year in L.A. County with the treatment, hoping that the L.A. model will be expanded in other parts of the United States.